United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/916
21 June 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) begins airlift operation to Ogaden region in south-eastern Ethiopia.

◆ General Assembly authorizes $13.8 million budget for United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for first six months.

◆ Yemen requests Security Council meeting to consider question of immigration and settlement in Israeli occupied territories.

◆ The United Nations Disaster Relief Organization reports shortfall of $239.7 million for United Nations humanitarian operation in the Persian Gulf following recent pledging conference; convenes inter-agency meeting to review situation in Philippines following volcanic eruptions.

◆ United States rejects legitimacy of document circulated by Iraq, containing interview with United States General Norman Schwarzkopf by Israeli correspondent.

◆ The Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council concludes work for session by recommending that Council enlarge Commission on Narcotic Drugs to 53 members.

◆ Experts at meeting of parties to Convention to protect ozone layer say threat of ozone depletion has grown since Convention's establishment.

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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced today that it had launched the first airlift to the Ogaden region in south-eastern Ethiopia where some 88,000 returnees had been completely cut off from any international aid for the past three weeks.

According to regional authorities, 60 people are dying there every day. The UNHCR has scheduled a total of 46 flights to the area to prevent further deaths while the overland route is made secure. Three one-and-a-half-hour flights are to leave the capital Addis Ababa every day.

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For information media—not an official record

Besides wheat, beans, sugar and vegetable oil, the planes are also carrying a complete self-sufficient logistics set-up, including light trucks, shortwave radio equipment, warehousing facilities, and a thirty-member team to manage and distribute the relief assistance. Relief infrastructure in the region was partially destroyed during the recent change of government.

While progress is being made in south-eastern Ethiopia, UNCHR reports that the situation in the western part of the country is critical. Field reports indicate that attacks by armed groups are causing a renewed flight of refugees. The UNHCR has not been able to get into the camps because the roads have been mined and the bridges destroyed. However, field reports indicate that hundreds of thousands of refugees are fleeing back over the border into the Sudan.

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The General Assembly today approved the budget of a new United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, thereby paving the way for the Mission -- ONUSAL -- to begin monitoring human rights in the Central American country.

The Assembly approved the appropriation of $13.8 million to finance the Mission's first six months, from 1 July to 31 December, as an ad hoc arrangement.

The Assembly took that action by adopting, without a vote, a resolution which also authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for an amount not exceeding $9.2 million gross ($8.8 million net) to cover ONUSAL's costs for a further six months from 1 January to 30 June 1992. The costs are to be apportioned among Member States. The Assembly also invited voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies.

The first phase of ONUSAL will have the mandate of verifying fulfilment of the human rights agreement signed between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) in San Jose, Costa Rica, in July 1990.

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Yemen has requested a meeting of the Security Council to consider the question of immigration and settlement in the Israeli occupied territories.

The request was contained in a letter dated 20 June to the Council President from Yemeni Ambassador Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal.

In a separate development, the Permanent Observer for Palestine has sent a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 19 June, condemning the treatment of Palestinians in Kuwait. Observer Nasser Al-Kidwa said the 200,000 Palestinians were living in extremely difficult conditions. He called the recent tribunals a "sham", saying they were "illegal in form and substance".

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Mr. Al-Kidwa appealed to the Secretary-General to urge the Kuwaiti Government not to carry out the death sentences that were handed down to a number of Palestinians and other Arabs.

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According to the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO), the United Nations humanitarian operation in the Persian Gulf has a funding shortfall of $239.7 million, following the most recent pledging conference in Geneva. In a situation report issued today, the Agency said a degree of stability seems to have returned to the northeastern provinces of Iraq following unrest between 30 May and 2 June, except for Kousenjag and Suleimaniya, where on 12 and 13 June new clashes were reported.

Some 400,000 Iraqi refugees had returned to the province of Dohuk, most of them to their villages and towns of origin, including villages which had been evacuated and destroyed between 1978 and 1988. According to UNDRO, however, some 60,000 to 80,000 of them may still need assistance throughout the summer or beyond since they cannot return to their homes.

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The UNDRO also reported today that the Philippines suffered two additional minor volcanic eruptions yesterday which sent steam clouds some 5,000 metres into the sky. Heavy rains have raised fears of new mudflows. According to the local media, the death toll has passed 200 and could easily rise to 300. Over 145,000 people have been evacuated and are sheltered in some 150 relief centres.

The Agency reported that immediate needs included tents, blankets, clothing, flashlights, water containers, food and sanitation materials.

The Philippine Government has estimated property damage at over $74 million dollars. According to UNDRO, the Government is stepping up relief efforts and has started a major campaign to restore power and water and to rebuild bridges. Key roads have been opened since Wednesday, and Manila airport was reopened last night for selected international flights. The airport will be closed again tonight to check the runway.

The United Nations Disaster Relief Organization has convened a meeting with the participation of the World Bank to review the situation and formulate a plan of international assistance.

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The United States has rejected the legitimacy of an "interview" between United States General Norman Schwarzkopf and an Israeli Army Radio correspondent which was circulated by Iraq as a document of the Security Council.

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In a letter dated 19 June to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, United States Ambassador Alexander Watson called the interview "a complete fabrication". He stated that such an interview had never taken place and that by circulating it, Iraq had abused the right of United Nations Member States to circulate information to other Members.

In a letter dated 11 June, transmitting the interview, Iraqi Chargé d'affaires Samir Al-Nima had asserted that General Schwarzkopf's reported statements had confirmed that the "true objective" of the coalition aggression had been not merely to liberate Kuwait but to "smash Israel's enemies".

* * *

The Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council concluded its work for the first regular session of 1991 today by deciding to enlarge the Commission on Narcotic Drugs from 40 to 53 members.

Should the Council adopt the text it would distribute the 13 new seats as follows: four seats for the African Group; three seats for the Asian Group; three seats for the Latin American and Caribbean Group; one seat for the Eastern European Group; one seat for the Western European and Others Group; and one seat to rotate between the Asian Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Group every four years. The Council would fill the new seats at its organizational session next year.

* * *

International experts attending the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer have warned that the threat of ozone depletion has expanded significantly since the establishment of the Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

The meeting, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi from 17 to 19 June, was attended by experts from 64 countries and 17 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) underlined that all ozone observations since the late 1960s confirmed a significant decline in the ozone layer at all latitudes except in the equatorial belt. The decline of close to 3 per cent, between 65 degrees South and 65 degrees North, during the last decade was greater than registered earlier.

"There is no chance that we will be able to develop a complete picture of the ozone depletion threat unless we carry out research worldwide", said the Environment Programme's Executive Director, Mostafa K. Tolba, adding that developing countries needed sustained assistance in that task.

Among the many research priorities outlined by Mr. Tolba was the need to expand the monitoring of ozone and ultraviolet radiation as well as their effects. He also emphasized the need to improve understanding of the

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processes that controlled the abundance of compounds which influence ozone distribution. Those compounds included methane, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and oxides of nitrogen and hydrogen.

Concern over ozone depletion in the early 1970s had stemmed from the possible role played by nitrogen oxides emitted by supersonic jets, a fear which the latest research had confirmed, he said.

The participants supported the idea of expanding the Global Ozone Observing System Network. The WMO and UNEP were planning to install 12 to 15 observation stations in the Arctic, eastern Siberia and in the tropical belt. To raise the level of understanding and awareness, the participants requested that two parties to the Convention provide scientific and technical training in ozone monitoring and research and other relevant assistance, especially in developing countries.

They appealed to those nations which had not yet become parties to the Convention to complete the formalities and join quickly. In addition, those parties to the Convention which had not ratified the Montreal Protocol were also invited to do so.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/917
24 June 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Special Commission set up by Security Council to oversee destruction and rendering harmless of Iraqi weapons confirms that chemical weapons remain in Iraq following Gulf war.

- Latest round of negotiations between Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) concludes with reported progress on question of armed forces and technical cease-fire.

- President of General Assembly calls for immediate increase in humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia to alleviate rising death toll.

- More than $1 billion owed to United Nations from Member countries, according to latest report on status of contributions.

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The Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament set up by the Security Council (in its resolution 687 of 3 April) to oversee the destruction and rendering harmless of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons, long-range ballistic missiles and nuclear materials has confirmed that chemical weapons remain in Iraq following the Gulf war. A United Nations spokesman said today that this finding was the result of a visit last week to the Samarra chemical weapons plant located northwest of Baghdad.

According to the spokesman, the inspection was carried out by a team of 20 experts from 8 different countries which verified the presence on the site of mustard gas and phosphorous nerve agent, both as bulk agent and in the form of munitions. The team which included officials of the World Health Organization (WHO) also verified the presence on site of a number of precursor chemicals acquired from abroad.

The spokesman said the Iraqi authorities were cooperative throughout the initial inspection, and that the team saw nothing which was inconsistent with Iraq's declaration to the United Nations of 18 April.

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For information media—not an official record

A second inspection of the sites and further discussions with Iraqi authorities on the destruction process is taking place this week .

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A United Nations official said today that the latest round of direct talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) had concluded on Saturday night in Queretaro, Mexico, "on a positive note". The official told correspondents that although no formal agreements had been expected nor were concluded, there had been progress both on key aspects of armed forces and on technical cease-fire.

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The President of the General Assembly, Guido de Marco, of Malta, today called for an immediate increase in humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia to "roll back" the rising death toll.

At a press conference in Rome following a three-day visit to the region, he confirmed that the Ethiopian authorities had agreed to cooperate. However, the international community was not doing enough to prevent widespread starvation and concerted international action was needed within a matter of days to avert a massive human tragedy. One of the most critical needs, he said, was fuel, followed by trucks to carry the food.

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The United Nations is owed more than $1 billion by its Member countries, according to a report on the status of contributions as at the end of May. Of that amount, nearly $400 million is owed from previous years, not including 1991.

The report states that the number of countries which have paid their assessed contributions in full has decreased in the last 3 years from 86 to 67.

The report notes that the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) faces a severe funding shortfall. Of $60 million needed for the operation, only $184,000 had been received from Member countries. Other peace-keeping operations that face shortfalls include the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with a deficit of more than $300 million, and the new United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), which is in need of more than $140 million.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/918
25 June 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General calls on States to ratify or accede to, as soon as possible, 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs -- which he calls "cornerstone" of international cooperation against drug abuse.

- Secretary-General appoints Canadian national as Force Commander of military component of United Nations Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara.

- Margaret Shields of New Zealand appointed Director of Research and Training Institute for Women.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has issued a message on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be observed at Headquarters tomorrow, 26 June.

The Secretary-General said in the message that over the past year, the international community had renewed its commitment to join forces and to respond energetically to the global threat of drug trafficking. He drew attention in that regard to the creation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme which would integrate fully the structures and functions of three existing drug abuse control units located in Vienna. This new Programme, he said, would enable the United Nations to provide effective leadership and to play a major role in the international drug control effort.

The Secretary-General called on the international community to redouble its efforts and to take the necessary measures to ensure that all States ratify or accede as soon as possible to the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which entered into force in November 1990.

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For information media—not an official record

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The Secretary-General announced today the appointment of Major-General Armand Roy of Canada as the Force Commander of the military component of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), established by the Security Council on 29 April.

Major-General Roy has served in the various posts within the Canadian Army since 1964, when he was commissioned after completing his military training.

From October 1968 to April 1969, he served as Adjutant of the Canadian contingent in the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and against as Company Commander of UNFICYP for a 10-month period in 1973.

* * *

The Secretary-General has appointed Margaret Shields to be Director of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. She will succeed Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic who is currently the Director of Natural Resources and Energy Division in the Department of Technical Cooperation and Development (DTCD).

A national of New Zealand, Mrs. Shields will be the second Director of the Institute, which is an autonomous institution within the United Nations system, funded entirely by voluntary contributions and established to carry out research training and information activities worldwide to promote women as key agents of development. She was formerly Minister of Women's Affairs in her country and had previously held other Cabinet posts.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/919
26 June 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council meets to discuss reports that International Atomic Energy Agency team has been denied access by Iraqi military authorities to nuclear site in Iraq designated for inspection.

- Kuwait denies allegations of "unfair" treatment of Palestinians.

- Secretary-General welcomes communiqué on Cambodian cease-fire adopted in Paris by parties to conflict.

- International Labour Conference concludes in Geneva, adopting new international convention to protect workers in hotels and restaurants.

- Secretary-General to travel to Germany and Liechtenstein on official visit, to address summer session of Economic and Social Council in Geneva.

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Security Council members this evening urged Iraq to fulfil its obligation under Council resolution 687 (1991) to cooperate with a United Nations team empowered to carry out inspections aimed at disposing of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capacity.

The inspections are being carried out by a joint team consisting of representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and a Special Commission established under the resolution.

The Council had before it a letter from the Secretary-General containing letters from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission and the Director-General of the IAEA, in which they report on Iraq's non-cooperation with an inspection team.

According to the letters, Iraqi authorities denied access to a site in the Abu Gharaib Army Barracks in Baghdad for three days, allowing access only on 26 June. When the team arrived on 23 June, it had observed "in areas to which access was denied, considerable activity ... involving cranes, trucks, forklifts, other equipment and work crews". When access was finally granted,

(more)

For information media--not an official record

"the activities which had been observed from a distance during the first visit had ceased and objects that had been seen had been removed".

Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, France, Belgium, Austria, the United Kingdom, Ecuador, Romania and Iraq.

The representative of the United States said the episode demonstrated that Iraq had been doing everything to conceal the full extent of its unsafeguarded nuclear enrichment programme which the United States believed was directed towards the development of nuclear weapons.

The representative of Iraq denied the allegations, saying that it was fully cooperating in the implementation of resolution 687. Access to the site in question had been denied for only one day, which was a religious holy day. Further, as that site was under the jurisdiction of the military rather than the Ministry of Industry, additional clearances had been required before the inspection team could be admitted.

* * *

Kuwait has denied recent allegations by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) that it is treating Palestinians in Kuwait unfairly.

In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 24 June, Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad Abulhasan said the tribunals it was conducting were in accordance with national and international law, in the presence of local and foreign media. The sentences handed down, he said, were appropriate for the acts committed. Despite the impartiality of the verdicts, the Government had set up a commission to review the sentences to make sure that they fit the charges before referring them to the court martial for approval. Mr. Abulhasan dismissed the allegations as "a propaganda campaign mounted by the offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization".

Last week, the Permanent Observer for Palestine at the United Nations, Nasser Al-Kidwa, in a letter to the Secretary-General called the tribunals for alleged collaborators a "sham", and appealed to the Secretary-General to intervene to stop the Kuwaiti Government from carrying out handed-down death sentences.

In a related development, the Secretary-General's spokeswoman announced today that the Emir of Kuwait had commuted the death sentences to life imprisonment for individuals found guilty of collaborating with Iraq during the Gulf war. The Spokeswoman said the decision came today after contacts between the Secretary-General and the Government of Kuwait and covered all death sentences.

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The Spokesman for the Secretary-General said today that Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar had welcomed the final communiqué adopted at the two-day meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia which concluded today in Pattaya, Thailand, under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The Secretary-General was particularly gratified by the decision of the members of the National Council to implement an unlimited cease-fire and by their commitment to stop receiving foreign military assistance.

He expressed hope that the Council would continue to work vigorously towards national reconciliation, so as to create a climate conducive to an early completion of the negotiating process and to the adoption of a comprehensive political settlement in the framework of the Paris Conference on Cambodia.

* * *

New international labour standards for workers in hotels and restaurants has been adopted at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) three-week annual session which ended in Geneva today.

A United Nations press officer reporting from Geneva said the new international standards covered topics such as reasonable working hours, minimum daily and weekly rest periods, and adequate compensation for work carried out during holidays. Protection of workers claims in case of insolvency of their employers was another major subject, on which new standards would be adopted next year.

During the session, discussion focused on finding common international grounds for social justice in a world undergoing profound political, economic and social change. Participants stressed the importance of joint government-employer-worker action in improving the employment levels and conditions of work of millions of people in rural areas and in the informal sector.

About 2,000 government, employer and worker delegates from 141 member countries of the ILO took part in this year's discussions.

* * *

The Secretary-General will travel to Europe this weekend to pay official visits to Germany and Liechtenstein and to attend the opening of the Economic and Social Council session in Geneva.

During his visit to Germany, which takes place from 30 June to 2 July, the Secretary-General will conduct talks with the President, the Federal Chancellor and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, among others.

From the evening of 2 July until 4 July, the Secretary-General will be in Geneva in connection with the opening of the forthcoming session of the Economic and Social Council, which he will address Wednesday morning. On

(more)

Thursday, 4 July, he will open a special ministerial meeting on "The Impact of the Recent Evolution of East-West Relations on the Course of the World Economy, in particular on the Economic Growth and Development on the Developing Countries, as well as on International Economic Cooperation".

From 4 to 6 July, the Secretary-General will pay an official visit to Liechtenstein at the invitation of the Government. He is scheduled to meet with Hans Brunhart, Head of Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/920
27 June 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees tells correspondents of agreement with President of United States to delay withdrawal of United States troops from northern Iraq.

- United Nations inter-agency team to travel to Iraq to assess conditions and unmet requirements of civil population.

- World Food Programme begins airdrop of food to Sudanese fleeing Ethiopia.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, told correspondents today at Headquarters that agreement had been reached with the President of the United States to delay withdrawal of U.S. troops from northern Iraq.

Mrs. Ogata said she had met yesterday with President George Bush in Washington, D.C., to discuss the situation of refugees in Iraq and the Horn of Africa. She said that according to the agreement the United States troops would remain in northern Iraq to guarantee security to the Kurds until the situation became less fragile.

The High Commissioner was scheduled to report later today to the Secretary-General on her meeting with President Bush.

* * *

The United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) reported today that a United Nations inter-agency team would travel to Iraq on Saturday, 29 June, to assess the conditions and the unmet requirements of the civil population, including effectiveness of key productive sectors.

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For information media—not an official record

The Agency said the United Nations team would be strengthened by the participation of independent experts and would finalize its report by mid-July. The mission was expected to provide an updated review of the general situation.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) started yesterday an airdrop of food to approximately 110,000 Sudanese who fled from refugee camps near Gambela in south-western Ethiopia and crossed into the area of Nasir in the Sudan. The onset of the rainy season has turned the area into a swamp, inaccessible by road and lacking airstrips where large airplanes can land. A total of 500 tons of food will be airdropped, enough to feed the returnees for about two weeks. Staff from WFP and other United Nations agencies are already stationed in the area of Nasir to prepare for the airdrop.

Permission for the airdrop was granted by the Sudanese Government after a high-level United Nations mission, led by WFP Executive Director, James Ingram, visited Khartoum on 14 and 15 June.

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CORRECTION: In Wednesday Highlights (Press Release DH/919) the third headline should read as follows:

- Secretary-General welcomes communique on Cambodian cease-fire adopted in Pattaya, Thailand, by parties to conflict.

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/921
28 June 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council asks Secretary-General to send high-level mission to Baghdad to meet with Iraqi authorities to discuss immediate access to all weapon sites and security for inspection team.

- Security Council expresses full support for Secretary-General's proposal to hold high-level international conference on question of Cyprus.

- Secretary-General decides to send mission to South Africa in August to gather first-hand information on degree of progress in dismantling of apartheid.

- Practical measures concerning Western Sahara are discussed at United Nations meeting in Geneva between representative of Moroccan Government and POLISARIO.

- Agreement reached on resumption of talks under Secretary-General's auspices to consider visit by Portuguese Parliamentary delegation to East Timor.

* * *

The Security Council has asked the Secretary-General to send a high-level mission to Baghdad to meet "with the highest levels of the Iraqi Government" following reports of a further incident today in which the Iraqi military authorities impeded the access of a United Nations team to a site designated for inspection. The decision came after a report from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Special Commission charged with inspecting Iraq's weapons capabilities.

In a statement read at a brief meeting this evening, the President of the Council, Jean-Jacques Bechio (Côte d'Ivoire), said Council members had learned with grave concern that a joint IAEA/Special Commission Inspection Team had been denied "immediate and unimpeded access" to the site, and that the Iraqi military fired small arms into the air when members of the team were trying to photograph loaded vehicles, leaving the site.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The President said this occurred following incidents earlier this week when the Iraqi military authorities denied the Nuclear Inspection Team access to certain facilities at another designated site. Members of the Council, he said, strongly deplored these incidents and condemned the conduct of the Iraqi authorities. The incidents were flagrant violations of Security Council resolution 687, and of undertakings which Iraq had given.

The Council President said members had decided to ask the Secretary-General to send a high-level mission to Baghdad immediately, to convey the Council's urgent demand for unequivocal assurances that the Iraqi Government would ensure full cooperation with the Special Commission in the discharge of its mandate, and also to provide unconditional guarantees for the safety and security of all personnel carrying out functions in connection with resolution 687.

The Council also called on Iraq to grant the inspection team currently in Iraq "immediate and unimpeded access to the objects "which they had tried to inspect today", and to any other site deemed necessary.

The Council's action followed a communication to the Secretary-General in which the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Rolf Ekeus, reported that when the inspection team was waiting for access to a site near the city of Fallujah today the Chief Inspector asked that there should be no movement of transport or equipment, pending permission for the team to enter and to inspect. While waiting for access, which was eventually denied, the team saw numerous vehicles in the compound loaded with objects which they specifically wished to inspect. The vehicles began to leave the compound through another gate, and when inspectors began to photograph this movement Iraqi personnel fired small arms into the air.

The Secretary-General's high-level mission to Baghdad, which leaves New York tonight, will comprise Executive Chairman Ekeus, the Director-General of IAEA, Hans Blix, and the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Yasushi Akashi.

* * *

The Security Council has expressed its full support for the Secretary-General's proposal to hold a high-level meeting on the question of Cyprus, between the five permanent members of the Council, as well as the representatives of Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, and the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

In a statement on behalf of its members, Council President Jean-Jacques Bechio (Côte d'Ivoire) said the Council regretted that, despite the Secretary-General's effort, the necessary progress had not yet been made in achieving an outline for an agreement between the parties.

The President asked the Secretary-General to provide a full report to the Council by the end of August on the substance of the ideas that were discussed and the responses of all concerned, and to provide his assessment of the

(more)

situation particularly with regard to whether the conditions were conducive to a successful outcome of a high-level international meeting.

* * *

The Secretary-General has decided to send a mission to South Africa during the first half of August. Similar to one sent last year, the mission will gather first-hand information on the degree of progress in the dismantling of apartheid in that country.

In a letter to the President of the General Assembly, dated 24 June, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said he intended to delay his report to the Assembly on the situation in South Africa because of ongoing developments and consultations with South African authorities and the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), among others.

An International Conference on the Educational Needs of the Victims of Apartheid in South Africa ended today in Paris. During the gathering, which was sponsored by the Special Committee against Apartheid, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, several speakers complained that blacks in South Africa had long been the victims of racial education policies. As a result, it was said, about half of the 15 million black school-age children in South Africa were not attending school.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Representative on Western Sahara, Johannes Manz, has informed Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar on the outcome of a two-day meeting he held in Geneva with representatives of the Government of Morocco and of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO).

A United Nations official told correspondents the meeting included discussion of matters relating to the preparation for the deployment of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The official said the process of close and informal consultations was intended to continue with all concerned until the cease-fire prior to the referendum. The Special Representative would be taking up his duties in Laâyoune on 6 September, the date that both Morocco and Frente POLISARIO have accepted for the cease-fire in response to the proposals made by the Secretary-General.

* * *

A United Nations official said today that agreement had been reached on a number of pending issues regarding a proposed visit by a Portuguese Parliamentary delegation to East Timor. The agreement was reached during a meeting yesterday, chaired by the Secretary-General, between the Ambassadors of Indonesia and Portugal. It was agreed that talks under the auspices of the Secretary-General would resume in the near future, in order to consider the practical arrangements for the visit of the Portuguese Parliamentary delegation.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/922
1 July 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- High-level delegation visits Baghdad on behalf of Security Council to ask for prompt and unimpeded access to any military location.

- Secretary-General begins two-day official visit to Germany; holds talks with Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister, and President.

- South Africa accedes to 1968 Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

- Eighth United Nations North American Regional NGO Symposium on Question of Palestine opens in Montreal.

* * *

A High-level Mission consisting of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix; the Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission set up by the Security Council under the Iraq cease-fire resolution 687, Rolf Ekeus; and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Yasushi Akashi, has arrived in Baghdad.

The Mission is to discuss with high officials of the Iraqi Government the recent visit by an inspection team to different locations near Baghdad. The team was refused access to designated sites and witnessed the removal by Iraqi personnel of equipment and materials from such locations to unknown sites.

The Mission will also ask the Iraqi authorities to give the IAEA's inspection team prompt and unimpeded access to any location, and allow inspection of equipment and materials which were removed from two military sites near Baghdad last week.

A United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents today that the Mission had met with the Iraqi Foreign Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, and was scheduled to meet the Prime Minister either this evening or tomorrow morning.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar today began a two-day official visit to Germany.

A United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents that the Secretary-General had held talks with Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher which focused on the situation in Yugoslavia, the Iraq/Kuwait situation and the Security Council's resolutions on that subject, as well as the costs of the implementation of those resolutions. The Secretary-General expressed concern for the fate of the Shi'ite population in southern Iraq and briefed the Minister on the deployment of the United Nations Security Guard contingent in Iraq, which he hoped would be completed by mid-July. They also discussed the German proposal for the appointment of a United Nations coordinator for humanitarian affairs, and the Secretary-General briefed the Minister on latest developments in Cyprus.

The Secretary-General also met today with the German President, Richard Von Weizsächer, for talks covering the situation in Yugoslavia, restructuring of the United Nations and various international matters.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was scheduled to meet tomorrow with leaders of the opposition parties in the Bundestag, and to hold talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

* * *

The South African cabinet has approved the country's accession to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty aims at promoting the process of disarmament by the nuclear nations, and at guaranteeing all countries access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The South African authorities informed IAEA that the accession would take effect as soon as the required constitutional arrangements had been made.

In welcoming the announcement, IAEA Director-General Hans Blix called the approval "highly significant" and a positive development for the future conclusion between IAEA and South Africa of a comprehensive safeguards agreement on all nuclear activities in the country.

Discussions on such an agreement have been held with high-level South African officials in recent months, both at IAEA headquarters in Vienna and in South Africa.

In announcing the cabinet's approval, South African President F.W. de Klerk said his country's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty reaffirmed its commitment not only to take its rightful place in the international community but also to play a positive and constructive role in the process. He said positive developments in the world and the South African region, including the recent accession of Zambia and Tanzania to the Treaty, would now make it possible to achieve a long-standing goal of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in southern Africa.

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The United Nations North American Regional Symposium of Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine opened its eighth session on Friday in Montreal with a statement by its organizer, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal).

Mrs. Diallo said the Palestinian Rights Committee, established in 1975, had constantly stressed the need to promote a solution based on the creation of two states, in conformity with the 1947 partition plan of Palestine.

Over the years, she said, the Committee had continued and increased its efforts for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices, which would provide the best opportunities for reaching a global, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

She called on the countries of North America to advance the Middle East peace process. Those countries, she said, could have an important influence on opinion and the official policies of countries of the region.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/923
2 July 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General appeals for release of Israeli hostage in Kashmir.

- Secretary-General reviews international problems with Chancellor of Germany.

- Secretary-General appoints Special Representative on human rights situation in Cuba.

* * *

The spokeswoman for Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar today issued a statement saying that the Secretary-General had appealed to the captors of Yair Yitzaki, an Israeli national being held hostage in Kashmir, to release him immediately and unharmed. The statement said that in the Secretary-General's view, no aim could be furthered by the taking of innocent hostages.

* * *

On the second day of his official visit to Germany, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar met today with Chancellor Helmut Kohl for a general review of international problems.

The Secretary-General and the Chancellor discussed the problems of the Near and Middle East, including implementation of United Nations resolutions on the Persian Gulf; the situation in Yugoslavia and its latest developments; Cyprus; Central America; Korea, in view of the request for admission to the United Nations by both North and South Korea; and Cambodia and the future role of the United Nations in a possible solution. The discussion also covered problems of the environment and relations between developing and developed countries, with the Secretary-General stressing once again his concern about the lack of a North/South dialogue. The role of Germany in the United Nations and its participation in various United Nations activities were also reviewed.

Earlier in the day, the Secretary-General met with leaders of the German opposition parties in the Bundestag. With Hans-Jochen Vogel, outgoing

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Chairman of the Social Democratic Party, the Secretary-General described United Nations activities in the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the Persian Gulf war. Mr. Vogel explained the position of his party on German participation in United Nations peace-keeping and the Secretary-General reaffirmed his position -- that while he welcomed German participation in United Nations activities and was gratified by Germany's contribution of logistical and other support to United Nations operations such as the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia and the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), he did not wish to interfere in the present debate going on in Germany about the participation of the country in United Nations peace-keeping. They also exchanged views on the situation in Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General left Bonn for Geneva at the conclusion of his official visit to Germany.

* * *

The Secretary-General has appointed a national of Colombia, Rafael Rivas Posada as Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Cuba.

The appointment comes in response to a request by the Commission on Human Rights for a special representative to maintain direct contact with the Government and citizens of Cuba. The Commission took that decision in 1989 following a mission to Cuba to investigate the situation.

Mr. Rivas Posada has previously served the Secretary-General as his Special Representative. From 1982 to 1985 he was the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Uruguay. In 1985 he served as Independent Expert on Paraguay for the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. Rivas Posada served as his country's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva from 1989 to 1990, and Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations in New York from 1975 to 1977. In 1978, he was Chief of the delegation to the thirtieth regular session of the General Assembly.

From 1986 to 1989 Mr. Rivas Posada was Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Economic Community.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/924
3 July 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses hope that further bloodshed is avoided and negotiated solution is found to Yugoslavia's present problems.

- Secretary-General opens summer session of Economic and Social Council in Geneva.

- Secretary-General calls for immediate action to save lives in the Horn of Africa; announces that Unit for Special Emergency Programmes in the United Nations Department for Special Political Questions will be reinforced to coordinate relief efforts.

- Secretary-General's Executive Delegate to go to Howr Al-Hammar in southern Iraq during visit of high-level mission to assess humanitarian needs of Iraqi civilian population.

- United Nations official informs correspondents that Israeli hostage held in Kashmir has been released and handed over to Israeli Government representative.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today expressed hope that a solution could be found to Yugoslavia's present problems.

In a statement issued at the United Nations Office at Geneva, he said he had discussed the situation with all his contacts in London and Bonn over the past few days. He expressed the hope that regional efforts deployed in the framework of the European Community and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) would succeed so that further bloodshed could be avoided and a negotiated solution could be found to the present problems in Yugoslavia.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

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The Secretary-General was in Geneva for the start of the summer session of the Economic and Social Council. In his opening statement, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said the United Nations must be given the means to carry out the increasing tasks assigned to it. He warned of an impending human tragedy of catastrophic proportions in Africa. The Secretary-General called for the convening of an international conference on development finance, and he urged major trading nations to give more serious consideration to the concerns of developing countries in the Uruguay Round of negotiations on trade liberalization.

During the next three weeks, the 54-member Council will examine the impact of the changes in East-West relations on the world economy, the oil market in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, and new criteria for defining what constitutes a "least developed country". The Council will be asked to approve and transmit to the General Assembly the inclusion of six new countries on the list of those designated as least developed -- Cambodia, Ghana, Madagascar, the Solomon Islands, Zaire and Zambia.

The Council will devote tomorrow and Friday, 4 and 5 July, to a special high-level ministerial meeting to discuss the impact of the recent evolution in East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, on the economic growth and development of developing countries, and on international cooperation.

The session, which is expected to conclude on Friday, 26 July, will be the last under the present structure of the Council.

* * *

At a meeting in Geneva today on the emergency situation in the Horn of Africa, at which all heads of humanitarian agencies of the United Nations system were represented, the Secretary-General said the needs outlined in a report prepared by James Ingram, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), should be regarded as "a call for action -- action now".

The report was the result of a mission which Mr. Ingram took recently at the request of the Secretary-General, to assess the immediate requirements for humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa and to accelerate its mobilization and distribution.

In a statement to the inter-agency meeting, the Secretary-General noted that in May of this year he had appealed for additional resources to respond to the plight of almost 30 million of Africans facing the threat of starvation. He said the overall situation had taken on even greater urgency now with the recent developments in Ethiopia. The Secretary-General said he was greatly encouraged by the positive assurances of full cooperation by the Governments of the affected countries; it was now up to the international community to assist them in their courageous efforts.

He said he was convinced that the United Nations must play a leading role in the effort, and he announced the reinforcement of the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes in the Department for Special Political Questions,Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, headed by Under-Secretary-General James Jonah. Special attention would be paid by the Unit to the collection and dissemination of up-to-date information on needs and responses for the Horn. Arrangements would also be made for the coordination of resources mobilization, regular liaison with donor Governments and affected Governments, regular liaison with non-governmental organizations, and also for appropriate public information activities.

* * *

It was announced today that the Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General, Sadruddin Aga Khan, had reported to the Secretary-General in Geneva today on the conclusion of a special fact-finding mission sent to southern Iraq last week to look into the situation of displaced groups in the marshlands region. A United Nations official said that in the light of the findings of the mission, and of its possible serious humanitarian consequences for the populations concerned, it was decided that the Executive Delegate should, as a matter of urgency, request that arrangements be made for him to visit the area of Howr Al-Hammar during the high-level mission which he was to lead to Iraq next week, in order to assess the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi civilian population. The area in question was identified by the special mission as a particularly high-risk one in terms of human suffering for the displaced persons.

In a separate development, the United Nations official announced that, in Geneva tomorrow morning, the Secretary-General would receive the three members of the high-level mission he sent to Baghdad at the weekend. The mission was dispatched to Iraq at the request of the Security Council to discuss immediate access to all nuclear-weapon sites and security for the inspection team.

* * *

A United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents today that Yair Yitzaki, the Israeli hostage being held in Kashmir, had been released and handed over to an Israeli Government representative. The spokeswoman said that Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding had received a telephone call this morning from the officer-in-charge of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) who reported that the hostage had just been brought to the UNMOGIP compound by a group of journalists. He was subsequently collected from the compound by a local representative of the Israeli Government.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/925
5 July 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's report based on findings of high-level mission sent to Baghdad to ensure Iraq's compliance with nuclear inspection team is presented to President of Security Council.

- New IAEA inspection team leaves Vienna for Baghdad.

- Economic and Social Council holds two-day high-level meeting on impact of evolution of East-West relations on global economy.

- Secretary-General pays first-ever visit to Liechtenstein.

- Secretary-General, in report to General Assembly, appeals to Member States to make advance payments to meet initial expenses of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

* * *

A United Nations spokesman informed correspondents today that the report of the Secretary-General based on the findings of the high-level mission he had sent to Baghdad was presented this morning to the President of the Security Council, Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada.

The mission, comprising the Executive Chairman of the Security Council's Special Commission, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus of Sweden; the Executive Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix; and Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Yasushi Akashi, discussed with Iraqi authorities immediate access to all nuclear sites for IAEA inspectors, as well as the question of their security.

The report was discussed today by the Security Council during informal consultations. Annexed to the report was a communication from President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, which was received by the Secretary-General this morning in response to a message the Secretary-General handed over yesterday to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador Barzan Ibrahim Al-Takriti. The Secretary-General's message, addressed to the Iraqi leader, dealt with various aspects of the visit of the nuclear inspection team to Baghdad.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

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In a related development, an IAEA inspection team composed of 38 experts and support staff left Vienna yesterday for Baghdad, in order to carry out inspection activities at a number of sites in Iraq. The sites will include new locations designated to IAEA by the Special Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

This is the third inspection team sent to Iraq by IAEA and, like the first two, it will have the assistance and cooperation of the Special Commission.

Meanwhile, the second IAEA inspection team has completed its work. It withdrew to Bahrain on 3 July in order to prepare its report, which will be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

It has been stated that neither the Agency nor its third inspection team will be making any public statements until the visit is completed.

* * *

The United Nations Economic and Social Council held a two-day high-level meeting in Geneva to discuss the impact of the recent evolution in East/West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries as well as on international economic cooperation.

Addressing the Council as it began the meeting yesterday, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said the international community must see to it that assistance to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union should be truly "additional" and serve a productive purpose. There should be no diversion or reduction of official development assistance destined for developing countries. The policies of rich countries regarding commerce, finance and investment should accord particular importance to the needs of the developing nations.

Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Foreign Minister of Algeria, said the world was witness to a new Marshall Plan: the South to North net negative transfer of financial resources exceeding $100 billion. The granting of trade advantages by the European Economic Community (EEC) might wipe out meagre gains made by developing countries, and result in a diversion of advantageous financial factors impacting on the South.

Kofi Awoonor of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries, said that as Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union prepared to join the mainstream of the international economy, they must seek to change the inequitable international economic system to one based on true partnership from which all the peoples of the world could benefit.

Speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, J. Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, said while,

initially, problems might arise for developing countries, due to the restructuring of trade patterns in Eastern Europe and to a certain overlapping in export interests, this trend was likely to be offset by the opening of new markets in Eastern Europe.

William Draper III, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said despite the excitement generated by Eastern Europe, the greatest development challenges remained in the least developed countries. It was through human development that economic growth could be hastened and ecological devastation halted. Spending on priority social needs accounted for less than one-tenth of the total public spending in the developing world, and he suggested that aid from the industrialized countries must be increased and directed to priority human needs. Military spending should be curbed in both developed and developing countries, and the lifting of agricultural trade barriers would generate nearly $100 billion extra a year for developing countries.

* * *

Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar was in Liechtenstein today for the first-ever official visit by a Secretary-General to that country, the latest Member of the United Nations. On his arrival last night from Geneva, the Secretary-General and Mrs. Pérez de Cuéllar were guests for dinner of Prince Hans-Adam and Princess Marie of Liechtenstein at Vaduz Castle, where they are staying during their official visit.

Today, the Secretary-General met for one hour with Hans Brunhart, Prime Minister of the Principality, for a review of international problems now before the United Nations. The Secretary-General briefed the Prime Minister on his efforts regarding such problems, among others, as the situations relating to Iraq-Kuwait and the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, Afghanistan and Central America.

Following his official visit to Liechtenstein, the Secretary-General leaves tomorrow for a short private visit to Istanbul, where he will receive an honorary degree from Istanbul University. The Secretary-General will also have talks on Monday with President Ozal of Turkey.

* * *

The Secretary-General has appealed to Member States to make advances, as well as outright grants on a voluntary basis, to meet the initial expenses of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), pending formal action by the General Assembly.

The appeal was contained in a report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the Mission. The net cost of UNAVEM II, which will verify the recent cease-fire agreement, is estimated at $121 million from 1 June 1991 to 31 October 1992.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/926
8 July 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Third International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team arrives in Baghdad to examine nuclear sites; begins inspection of items contained in new list presented to Secretary-General.

+ Iraqi Ambassador transmits to Secretary-General summary of report on imminent collapse of Iraqi health care system from New York health group, Medicine for Peace.

+ Secretary-General meets with Turkish President and Prime Minister during visit to Turkey.

+ United Nations Committee on Human Rights begins forty-second session in Geneva.

+ Saudi Arabia informs United Nations of Saudi prisoners remaining in Iraq.

* * *

The third inspection team of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has arrived in Baghdad to continue the inspection of Iraq's nuclear materials.

Composed of 38 experts, the team has begun to inspect sites and items contained in a list which was received late yesterday evening, 7 July, by the Secretary-General from the Foreign Minister of Iraq and copies of which were sent to the President of the Security Council and the Director-General of IAEA. According to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, the information comprises details of an extensive nuclear programme, an important part of which had not been declared earlier.

An initial examination indicated the existence of three parallel programmes for uranium enrichment and related equipment and facilities. According to the list provided by Iraq, half a kilogram of slightly enriched material had been produced during testing.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The new information provided by Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein follows findings of the IAEA nuclear inspection teams, high-level mission talks in Baghdad and contacts undertaken by the Secretary-General. The high-level mission sent to Baghdad last week had concluded that Iraqi cooperation fell short of what had been called for by the Security Council.

By the terms of the Security Council's cease-fire resolution 687, Iraq must allow the United Nations to inspect and eliminate or remove all of its weapons of mass destruction -- including long-range ballistic missiles, chemical and biological weapons, and nuclear-weapons-usable material.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has received a summary of a report on the imminent collapse of the Iraqi health care system from Medicine for Health. The New York-based medical delegation of academic physicians who have just returned from Iraq, has called for the modification of the international trade embargo to allow the Iraqi Ministry of Health to obtain desperately needed medicine and medical supplies.

The report, which was was transmitted in a letter dated 3 July to the Secretary-General by Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari, said that the Gulf war had resulted in epidemic levels of childhood diseases which could not be treated due to lack of medical supplies and medicines; and it stated that the single most critical health-care problem in Iraq was the high incidence of severe malnutrition and chronic diarrhoea in children under five years old.

According to the report, which was released on 27 June, the outbreak of infectious diseases such as typhoid, hepatitis, meningitis, cholera and polio, resulting from the destruction of the sanitation system, had also worsened during the past two months. The report said there were critical shortages of vital medicines including antibiotics, vaccines, and infant formulas to treat the children due to the imposition of the international sanctions.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who arrived in Istanbul, Turkey, last Saturday, has met with high-level Turkish officials and is slated to receive an honorary degree from Istanbul University on Tuesday, 9 July.

The Secretary-General met today with vacationing Turkish President, Turgut Ozal, at his summer residence at Marmaris, for talks lasting over an hour. According to the United Nations Spokesman accompanying the Secretary-General, the two discussed the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and its aftermath; Yugoslavia; Western Sahara and Cyprus.

On the question of Cyprus, President Ozal and the Secretary-General coincided in their view that an international gathering should be preceded by careful preparations, and to that effect, Oscar Camilion, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Cyprus, will pursue contacts in the region before the end of the month.

(more)

At a luncheon yesterday, 7 July, Mr. Perez de Cuellar met with Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz for a discussion covering the situation in the Middle East, including the deployment of United Nations security guards in Iraq, the economic consequences of the Gulf crisis; and Cyprus. Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray also attended the luncheon.

The Secretary-General is expected to leave Istanbul for France tomorrow following the presentation ceremony at Istanbul University.

* * *

The United Nations Human Rights Committee opened a new session in Geneva today. During the next 18 days, the body of experts will examine reports prepared by the Sudan, Morocco, Madagascar, Jordan and Iraq on how they have been following up the obligations set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee will also examine communications from individuals claiming that some of their rights under the Covenant have been violated and that they have exhausted all domestic legal remedies.

During this session the Committee will adopt its annual report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

The 53-article Covenant which established the Committee is intended to safeguard such rights as the rights to self-determination, to life, to liberty and security of person, and to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. It prohibits arbitrary deprivation of life; torture, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment; slavery and forced labour; war propaganda and advocacy of racial or religious hatred.

* * *

Saudi Arabia has informed the United Nations that it has confirmed reports from previously released prisoners and Iraqi refugees that there are at least 15 Saudi Arabians in Iraq, who have not yet been repatriated.

In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 2 July, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Samir S. Shihabi said that Iraq had not complied with all the provisions of Security Council resolution 687, specifically section G which concerns the repatriation of all Kuwaitis and third country nationals, including Saudi Arabian nationals.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/927
9 July 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Economic and Social Council opens debate on international economic policy; United Nations official says revitalized body could serve as an economic security council to deal with issues of global interdependence.

- To promote breast-feeding, the World Health Organization and UNICEF announce plan to make hospitals "baby friendly."

- United Nations Population Division releases report on world urbanization, saying nearly half of world's population lives in cities.

- United Nations Committee informs Secretary-General of grave problem of indebtedness facing several missions to United Nations.

- United Nations Environment Programme concludes eight-day meeting to negotiate treaty to protect world's biological diversity.

* * *

Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, has told the Economic and Social Council that a revitalized Council could serve as a kind of economic security council to deal with issues of global interdependence as well as situations requiring an immediate and comprehensive response.

Opening the debate on economic and social policy, Mr. Ahmed said that the issues to be dealt with by such a body would fill an important gap since those matters had not been considered in a coherent or comprehensive manner in either the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) or the Bretton Woods institutions.

The Council has before it a series of reports, including the World Economic Survey 1991, which forecasts zero economic growth for the world economy this year, representing a decline in per capita output of close to 2 per cent.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Survey, which raises a number of disturbing questions, says the economic situation in virtually all regions of the world is far from satisfactory and that, in light of present conditions, expectations for rapid improvement remain low.

The Survey concludes that global and regional economic problems are largely related to the economic policies of the industrialized countries, which have undergone major changes in the last decade.

Following a series of statements, participants at the meeting held an informal exchange with the Chairman of the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to address some of the issues.

* * *

A plan to promote breast-feeding through the creation of "baby friendly" hospitals, has been announced by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The plan, which was adopted on 28 June at a meeting of pediatricians, obstetricians, community health workers and non-governmental organizations, in Ankara, Turkey, outlines a 10-step programme -- including educating mothers on the benefits of breast-feeding and helping them to initiate the practice within a half-hour of birth. It also calls on maternity wards to allow mothers and infants to remain in the same room together.

According to the plan, newborns should not be given any food or drink other than breast milk unless medically necessary, and mothers should be referred to breast-feeding support groups upon leaving the hospital.

James Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, said that numerous professional organizations, health professionals and Government representatives, including the Presidents of Finland, Mexico and Nigeria and the Surgeon General of the United States had pledged support for the plan.

The plan follows a resolution adopted this year by UNICEF's Executive Board which called on manufacturers and distributors of breast-milk substitutes to end free and low-cost supplies of infant formula to maternity wards and hospitals by the end of 1992. Following a meeting between Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of WHO, Mr. Grant and the President of the International Association of Infant Food Manufacturers (IFM), Peter Borasio, members of IFM agreed with the goal of ending donations of low-priced supplies of infant formula to maternity wards and hospitals, and pledged their full cooperation in those efforts.

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The United Nations Population Division has released a report on World Ubanization Prospects 1990, which indicates that 45 per cent of the world's population lived in urban areas last year.

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According to the report, 37 per cent of the population of the less developed regions and 73 per cent of the people of the more developed regions were urban dwellers.

United Nations projections indicate that the level of urbanization for the world as a whole is expected to increase to 51 per cent in the year 2000.

* * *

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country has decided to inform the Secretary-General of the "particularly grave" problem of indebtedness facing several missions to the United Nations due to "major political upheavals" in their countries.

By the text of a letter approved yesterday afternoon, the Committee Chairman, Constantine Moushoutas of Cyprus, will report on the Committee's consideration of possible responses to the problem, including creation of an emergency fund administered by the United Nations, group health insurance programmes and temporary short-term employment in the Secretariat.

Speaking on the matter, a representative of the United Nations Office of the Legal Counsel said the United Nations was not in a position to recognize any legal liability regarding the insolvency of missions.

In the letter to the Secretary-General, the Committee said that, while awaiting a reply, it would continue to look for ways to alleviate the situation of the worst-affected missions, many of whom require emergency food donations.

At the meeting, the representative of the United States reported that 100 parcels of food had recently been provided to a mission which had not been paid by its Government for a year.

* * *

A meeting in Madrid held under the sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to negotiate a treaty that will protect the world's many species has ended with hope for an agreed treaty by next June.

At the close of the eight-day session, Mostafa Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP, told delegates from 76 developing countries and 13 international organizations that he now believed there was a strong chance for a meaningful international agreement by June of next year, when the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will take place in Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. Tolba said progress had been made on the most difficult issues -- access to biological resources, access to technology and its transfer, and financing mechanisms, but added that tough bargaining still lay ahead.

A further negotiating session is scheduled from 23 September to 3 October in Nairobi, and Mr. Tolba expressed hope for what he called "a draft treaty bearing the fingerprints of Governments", by early October.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/928
10 July 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Five permanent members of Security Council pledge strong support for establishment of weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in Middle East at meeting in Paris.

◆ France and Britain agree to assist International Atomic Energy Agency in recovery and removal of nuclear materials in Iraq.

◆ Human Rights Committee meeting in Geneva adopts list of special issues connected with impact of events since 2 August 1990 to be answered by Iraq.

◆ Experts on Human Rights Committee express concern about human rights situation in the Sudan.

◆ European Community proposes strengthening of United Nations capacity to respond to emergency situations in light of recent catastrophes.

◆ Jordan requests addition of item on prevention of environmental warfare to upcoming General Assembly agenda.

◆ Security Council approves recommendations of Secretary-General on composition of military unit of United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

* * *

The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have ended a two-day meeting in Paris with a pledge of strong support for the establishment of a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the Middle East.

According to an official joint communique issued following the Paris meeting which was transmitted to the United Nations through the United States Mission, the representatives of the United States, China, France, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union expressed the view that steps towards that goal should include the full implementation of the Security Council's cease-fire resolution 687 on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

The five countries noted with concern the dangers associated with the excessive build-up of military capabilities in the Middle East, and confirmed they would not transfer conventional weapons "in circumstances which would undermine stability". They also referred to threats to peace and stability posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons and missiles, and pledged to seek effective measures of non-proliferation and arms control "in a fair, reasonable, comprehensive and balanced manner on a global as well as on a regional basis".

They further stressed the need for the adoption by all countries in the region of a comprehensive programme of arms control, including a freeze and ultimate elimination of ground-to-ground missiles; submission of all nuclear activities to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards; a ban on the importation of nuclear-weapons-usable materials; and agreements by all States in the region to become parties to the convention on chemical weapons as soon as it is concluded in 1992.

The five nations expressed the intention to observe "rules of restraint" regarding conventional weapons transfers and to develop specific guidelines on that basis. Given the "special situation of the Middle East as a primary area of tension", the five said they would develop modalities of consultation and of information exchanges concerning arms transfers to the Middle East, as a matter of priority.

They said a group of experts would meet in September with a view to reaching agreement on that approach and another plenary meeting would be held in October in London. In addition, further meetings would be held periodically to review the issues. The five permanent members of the Security Council expressed the conviction that that process of continuing cooperation would "contribute to a world-wide climate of vigilance in this field which other countries will share".

They also agreed to support continued work in the United Nations on an arms transfers register to be established under the aegis of the Secretary-General, on a non-discriminatory basis, as a step towards increased transparency on arms transfers and in general in military matters.

* * *

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced today that France and the United Kingdom have agreed to undertake operations necessary to recover and render harmless the nuclear fuel elements present in Iraq in fulfilment of Security Council resolution 687. The work will be shared equally between them.

The recovered materials will be subject to IAEA safeguards. The announcement follows a request by IAEA for assistance in the matter from Member States possessing appropriate capabilities.

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* * *

The United Nations Human Rights Committee, now meeting in Geneva, has begun its consideration of the third periodic report of Iraq and has decided to focus on the special issues connected with the impact of events since 2 August 1990, in particular, the exercise of the rights guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Today the Commission approved a list of issues to be considered during the session, including the right to self-determination of the Iraqi Kurds; the status of rights during states of emergency as established under the Covenant; and application of the death penalty.

The Committee has also decided to request details about redress for casualties and disappearances in Kuwait, as well as for damage to the right to life resulting from the destruction of oil wells in that country.

The Committee also emphasized questions concerning the fate of Kuwaitis taken to Iraq as prisoners after 2 August 1990, and the rights of persons belonging to minority groups.

The list of approved issues will be submitted to Iraq, which is expected to furnish a reply to the Committee by 18 or 19 July.

* * *

Experts on Human Rights Committee have expressed concern about the human rights situation in the Sudan. Upon hearing the report submitted by the Government of the Sudan, Committee members cited the application of cruel and inhuman punishment and numerous death penalties, as well as serious restrictions on freedom of religion and expression as serious human rights violations that have raised great cause for concern.

In introducing the report, Abdel Samie Omer of the Sudan said the present Government had not yet completed the draft of a permanent federal constitution and that the Sudan continued to be governed by constitutional decrees. According to the report, the Sudan's transitional constitution of 1985 had been suspended on 30 June 1989, when Revolution for National Salvation took power. He also told the Committee that the Government had released all political detainees, totalling some 299, on 29 April.

The Committee expressed concern about inconsistencies between the constitutional decrees and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the introduction of a participatory democracy without political parties. Most Committee experts said the report was inadequate and requested more information.

* * *

Recent catastrophes such as the cyclone in Bangladesh, the crisis in the Horn of Africa, and the massive exodus of Iraqi refugees have led the European Council to propose that the United Nations strengthen its capacity to respond to emergency situations.

(more)

The proposal came in the form of a declaration which was transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 1 July from the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, Jan De Marchant et d'Ansembourg.

In the declaration, the European Council recommended the appointment of a "high-level coordinator for emergency assistance" to be based in Geneva. The coordinator would set up and maintain the financial and political links needed "to ensure that aid missions proceed smoothly".

* * *

Jordan has requested the addition of an item on the prevention of environmental warfare to the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in September.

"Exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict and the taking of practical measures to prevent such exploitation" is the topic proposed by the Jordanian Government in a letter to the Secretary-General signed by the Chargé d'affaires of Jordan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

The letter said that "it is common knowledge that the recent military conflict in the Gulf had an impact of tragic proportions on both the people of the region and the environment", adding that scientists have calculated that "it will take decades to recover from the environmental damage resulting from the confrontation."

The letter proposed that the General Assembly establish a committee to study the problems caused by such conflicts and put forward proposals for an efficient mechanism to combat the exploitation of the environment in times of war. Such action might lead to the drafting of a new treaty which would give humanity the confidence to face a more peaceful future, the letter said.

* * *

The Security Council has approved a proposal from Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the composition of the military unit of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

After having completed consultations with the parties, the Secretary-General recommended that 36 countries, representing virtually every region of the world, contribute contingents. He said the countries had unofficially indicated they were prepared to contribute contingents to MINURSO's military unit, in some cases subject to confirmation, if officially requested to do so.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/929
11 July 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Today, for the second year, the world community observes World Population Day.

◆ The Special Committee against Apartheid expresses regret at "the premature lifting by the United States of sanctions against South Africa"; and calls the decision of the International Olympic Committee to readmit South South Africa "premature".

◆ According to the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO), continuous torrential rainfall is causing severe flooding, death and deterioration in the Anhui, Henan and Jiangsu provinces of China.

◆ Memorandum of Understanding concerning role of new International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, signed in Vienna by the Government of Canada and United Nations.

◆ Japan grants UNWRA $7.2 million for purchase of flour for Palestinian refugees.

* * *

Today, for the second year, the world community observed World Population Day. The observance is an outgrowth of the "Day of Five Billion", marked in July 1987, when the world population count reached the 5 billion mark.

In a message released for the occasion, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, stressed that "rapid population growth, with mounting poverty, the alarming depletion of natural resources, damage to the environment, migratory pressures, burgeoning cities, and unmet needs in education, health, employment and housing, threatens the present and future quality of life on our planet".

"We can reverse or at least slow these trends", she said. "Slower, more balanced population growth has a positive impact on the environment, the economy and the social development of every nation."

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For information media—not an official record

The world population now stands at 5.4 billion and a billion more people will be added by the year 2001. Statistics gathered by the United Nations indicate that, in spite of expected fertility declines, the population of the less developed regions of the world may nearly double during the next 40 years. During that period, the elderly population of the less developed regions is projected to increase at an annual rate of 3 per cent per year, more than tripling their number. However, children will still comprise three quarters of the dependent population of the less developed regions in the year 2025.

More than 100 countries, as well as numerous non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, communities, schools, groups and individuals were expected to observe the day with planned events including special television, film and radio programmes; speeches and rallies by prominent Government and community leaders; seminars and workshops on population issues; newspaper and magazine supplements; special publications and exhibits; press conferences; sports competitions; skits on family planning and other dramatic and artistic performances.

"Planned Families, Better Lives", a film produced for the United Nations Population Fund, was to be shown on national television networks around the world.

* * *

The Acting Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Marjorie R. Thorpe, of Trinidad and Tobago, and the members of the Committee issued a statement today expressing regret at "the premature lifting by the United States Government of sanctions against South Africa, provided for in the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986".

The statement recalled that "the international community, including the United States, in December of 1989, adopted by consensus the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa which sets out the steps to be taken by the South African authorities before any relaxation of existing measures should be undertaken".

While recognizing that progress towards the abolition of apartheid had to be acknowledged, the Special Committee stated that "the climate conducive to negotiations and to free political activity does not yet exist in South Africa, that violence is still pervasive, that all exiles have not been allowed to return in safety and dignity and all political prisoners have not been released".

The Special Committee expressed hope that "the United States will continue to exert every possible pressure on the South African authorities so that all conditions stipulated by the United Nations Declaration on South Africa are met".

In a related development, the Special Committee has called the decision of the International Olympic Committee to readmit South Africa "premature".

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In a statement issued through its Acting Chairman, the Committee said it had learned of the decision which allows South Africa to participate in the Olymic Games to be held in Barcelona, Spain, in 1992, or possibly the Winter Games in Albertville, France, in February 1992, "with surprise".

Observing that all sports organizations and federations as well as activities and facilities had not yet been desegregated, the Committee said that, while recognizing that progress towards abolishing apartheid was to be acknowledged, it none the less felt that there were still steps, recognized by the IOC itself, that needed to be taken to open the way to lift the sports boycott. Those included concrete steps towards the unification of all South African sports on a non-racial basis; the availability of South African sports facilities to all South Africans and effective action to develop and train athletes of all races.

The statement indicated that the Commission against Apartheid in Sports had scheduled a meeting to review the sports boycott at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 13 September. It was expected that many interested parties, including the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, would attend.

* * *

According to a report from the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), torrential rainfall is causing severe flooding, death and widespread deterioration in the Anhui, Henan and Jiangsu provinces of China.

A United Nations spokeswoman said preliminary Government reports indicated casualties and material damage including 328 dead, 2,375 wounded, a total affected population of over 100 million persons, of whom 5.3 million had been cut off by flood waters.

The report cited economic losses of some 16.8 billion yuan or $1.3 billion. The UNDRO also reported on the loss of 6.9 million hectares of agricultural crops, as well as severe damage to houses, 529,000 of which had collapsed and more than 1 million had been seriously damaged.

The Chinese Government has launched a formal appeal to the international community for relief assistance to the flood victims in view of the unprecedented damage, and has outlined a provisional list of relief needs including tents, blankets, trucks, boats, medicines and building materials.

* * *

In Vienna, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Canada and the United Nations was signed today on the role of the new International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy established in Vancouver on 1 February.

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Signing the Memorandum were Edward G. Lee, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations (Vienna), and Margaret J. Anstee, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

The Centre's aim is to support the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, thus contributing to international cooperation in the development and reform of criminal law.

* * *

The Government of Japan has donated 1,000 million yen (about $7.2 million) to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to purchase and distribute flour to Palestine refugees.

Tetsuya Endo, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in Vienna, and UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen exchanged letters outlining the agreement at UNRWA headquarters on Tuesday, 9 July.

The grant will cover the purchase of approximately 29,000 tons of flour, which will be distributed to some 36,400 Palestine refugee families (about 156,400 persons) registered with UNRWA as special hardship cases in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territory of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/930
12 July 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Morocco and Frente POLISARIO accept Secretary-General's proposal that a formal cease-fire begin at 0600 GMT on 6 September.

- Secretary-General's Executive Delegate for the Middle East completes h umanitarian mission to Iraq.

- Mexico City talks between Government of El Salvador and FMLN end with "some progress" but "no major breakthroughs".

- Inter-agency mission to go to Lebanon from 15-24 July to assess reconstruction and rehabilitation needs.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has informed the Security Council that both Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO have accepted his proposal for a specific date and hour to be set for a formal cease-fire in Western Sahara.

In a letter dated 8 July to the President of the Council, the Secretary-General said the parties had agreed that the cease-fire will begin at 0600 GMT on 6 September.

* * *

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General for the Middle East, has completed a mission to Iraq and is expected to return to Geneva tomorrow to prepare a report for the Secretary-General on the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi civilian population.

According to a United Nations spokeswoman, Prince Sadruddin and members of a United Nations team flew yesterday to Nasariya in southern Iraq, the scene of heavy fighting in post-war strife. Prince Sadruddin had met there with the Governor and proceeded by road to Hammar, a village identified as a possible United Nations humanitarian centre. In Hammar, Prince Sadruddin's

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team, accompanied by a contingent of United Nations guards, was met by a United Nations convoy carrying supplies from the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The spokeswoman said Prince Sadruddin's intention was to maintain two or three staff members with a few guards in Hammar "to monitor relief distribution and guarantee a United Nations presence".

* * *

The current round of talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) has ended in Mexico City. At the end of yesterday's meeting, Alvaro de Soto, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, told the press that "some progress was made, but with no major breakthroughs". According to a United Nations spokeswoman, working groups had been established during the session to continue discussions on armed forces, which had been the main topic. Mr. de Soto is expected to return to New York over the weekend.

The negotiations began in September 1989 when the two parties agreed to initiate a dialogue aimed at ending the armed conflict in El Salvador by political means.

* * *

A United Nations inter-agency needs assessment mission will go to Lebanon from 15 to 24 July as a first step in the intensified efforts of the Secretary-General to mobilize the United Nations system to assist Lebanon in its reconstruction and development.

That is in keeping with a request by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/225, and with the recent lifting of certain security restrictions in Lebanon. The mission has been organized under the guidance of Ronald I. Spiers, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, who coordinates the system-wide action under the programme for United Nations Assistance for Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL). It will gauge the immediate and longer-term needs of the country for social and economic rehabilitation and development.

Fourteen specialized United Nations agencies and programmes will be participating in the mission and have nominated experts who will be proceeding to Beirut. It was announced that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be the lead agency, and that Mohamed A. Nour, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director, will head the mission.

On completion of the mission, the Secretary-General will receive a report outlining priority needs and programmes for Lebanon's rehabilitation, reconstruction and sustainable development requirements which will be provided to the international community.

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